



# NEWS RELEASE

## HOWARD COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF POLICE OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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### **Howard County Police Help Sponsor “Maryland’s Strongest Cop” Contest** ***Local Powerlifting Meet for Law Enforcement Benefits Special Olympics Maryland***

What’s good for the body is also good for the 10,000 Special Olympics Maryland (SOMD) athletes who will benefit from the second annual Maryland Strongest Cop powerlifting meet, Sun., Aug. 14 at the Colosseum Gym in Columbia.

Presented jointly by the Howard County Police Department, the Maryland Law Enforcement Torch Run and the Colosseum Gym, the meet features competition in the squat, bench press and dead lift for both males and females representing 10 area law enforcement entities. Weigh-in for the contestants begins at 8 a.m., followed by a brief opening ceremony. Maryland’s Strongest Cop trophies will be awarded to the top overall male and female contestants, as well as to the top finishers in the individual weight classes and events.

“The most amazing thing about this partnership is that the men and women in law enforcement who take the time to support our citizens with intellectual disabilities do so not out of pity or because the boss makes them,” said Tom Schniedwind, Sr. VP of Sports Marketing for Special Olympics. “They do this out of friendship, out of respect, and out of love – and it is that personal commitment to this effort that has made events like this one so successful.”

Spectators are welcome and will be asked to make a \$5 donation to SOMD at the door. All spectators and contestants will receive lunch compliments of Strapazza, Pizza Hut, Subway, SOIREE Catering and the Colosseum Gym. Red Bull will also be on hand with product sampling and random prizes, and are hosting an “After Meet” party at the Phoenix Emporium in Ellicott City for all participants and spectators.

Registration for the meet maxed out at 40 contestants, and organizers expect to raise well over \$5,000 this weekend. The inaugural event last August raised just over \$1,000 for Special Olympics Maryland.

*The mission of the Law Enforcement Torch Run is to raise both funds for and awareness of the Special Olympics movement worldwide. The Torch Run is the largest grassroots fundraiser and public awareness vehicle for Special Olympics anywhere in the world. In 2004, the international program raised \$18 million in support of SO programs. The Maryland Torch Run raised over \$1 million of that total and is ranked the 4<sup>th</sup> highest grossing program in the world. For more information, contact Betsy Jiron at 410-789-6677 x115.*

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